A REBUKE TO Unfaithful PARENTS, AND A ROD FOR Stubborn Children:

(With Encouragement to the Faithful, both Parents and Children;) *viz.*

I. Such Parents as profeſs the WAY and TRUTH of GOD, but are careleſs, negligent, and unconcerned in the Performance and Diſcharge of their Duty, in not endeavouring to ſubject their Children, while they are young, and under their Government. And,

II. Such Children that are ſtubborn, and will not obey their Parents, though they uſe their Endeavour to ſubject them.

By *JOHN BANKS.*

The Author hereof deſires this may be read in the Families of Friends, and diligently obſerved and practiſed.

In the Lips of him that hath Underſtanding Wiſdom is found: But a Rod is for the Back of him that is void of Underſtanding. Prov. x. 13.

Ye Fathers, provoke not your Children to Wrath; but bring them up in the Nurture and Admonition of the Lord. Eph. vi. 4.

He that ſpareth his Rod, hateth his Son: But he that loveth him, chaſteneth him betimes. Prov. xiii. 24.

Chaſten thy Son while there is Hope, and let not thy Soul ſpare for his crying. Prov. xix. 18.

Children, obey your Parents in the Lord, for this is right. Eph. vi. 1.

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FOR
Stubborn Children:

(With Encouragement to the Faithful, both Parents and Children:) viz.

I. Such Parents as walk the WAY and TRUTH of GOD, but [illegible] negligent, and unconcerned in [illegible] and Discharge of their Duty, [illegible] to subject their Children, while [illegible] young, and under their Government. And,

II. Such Child as that are stubborn, and will not obey their Parents, though they use their Endeavour to [illegible] them.

BRITISH MUSEUM

A REBUKE TO Unfaithful PARENTS, AND A ROD FOR Stubborn Children, &c.

THE *Fear of the Lord is the Beginning of Wisdom, and a good Understanding have all they that do thereafter*, not only in Things appertaining to this Life, but in those which concern that which is to come, Life everlasting, as those know who are taught their Duty toward God, and all People, by the Teachings of the Grace and Truth that came by Christ Jesus; yea, this is that which teacheth the Fear of the Lord, (or how to fear him) and such who have known his Chastisements for Sin and Disobedience, are thereby taught the Fear of the Lord.

And therefore ſtand in Awe of him, as true-born Children, who have known Weeping and Godly Sorrow. For they that will not endure the Chaſtiſements of God, on this wiſe, by his Rod, are Baſtards, and no Sons: *For every Son whom he loveth, he chaſteneth.*

So, they that have learned the Fear of the Lord, and how to perform their Duty to him, in order to walk in the Way of Truth and Righteouſneſs; they are alſo taught by the Light and Grace of the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, and guided by his Wiſdom, how to teach, inſtruct, correct, and train up their Children in the Way of Truth and Righteouſneſs, as thoſe will find that begin, and uſe Care and Diligence in ſo inſtructing them, while they are yet in their young and tender Years; and not as thoſe, who thro' a fooliſh Pity, indulge one Offence after another in their Children, until they grow ſo ſtubborn and wilful, that Counſel and Correction will take little Place in them, and have but little Effect of Good upon them: And it too often comes to paſs, by the Fooliſhneſs of Parents ſparing the Rod, (even when there is Neceſſity for it) that thereby they hurt their Children, as ſaith the wiſe King *Solomon*.

And for any one to ſay to his Child, (as I have obſerved) *Go Boy, and do ſo and ſo*; and the Child to anſwer *I will not*, again and again; yet no Correction offer'd: Whether this tends to learn Children due Subjection to their Parents, I leave to you to judge.

Are not ſuch Parents as theſe void of a good and right Underſtanding, and want Wiſdom?

and

and ſo the Rod of God is for their Backs, who (through a fooliſh Pity) are ready to ſay, *I cannot find in my Heart to whip my Child.* What! haſt thou not a Heart and Mind to do thy Child good? Look into the Title Page, and ſee if thou canſt find in thy Heart to do thy Child hurt, by ſparing the Rod. And although thou ſay'ſt, thou loveſt thy Child; yet thou hateſt him, ſaith *Solomon*, if thou chaſten'ſt him not betime: Though Correction ſhould be moderate, conſidering their tender Years.

For conſider, if thou waſt in the true Fear and Wiſdom of God, that gives a good Underſtanding what is good for the Soul of thy Child, when thou haſt Occaſion to make Uſe of the Rod, thou would'ſt not much heed thy Child's Crying, (ſo that thou correcteſt in the Fear of the Lord) knowing, that which is good for the Soul, is never, in ſuch a Caſe, injurious to the Body: Though many Things given Way to by the Creature, contrary to the Teachings of Grace, in reſpect to the Body, may prove very hurtful to the Soul.

Firſt, in Parents neglecting their Duty in diſcharging themſelves concerning their Children, in Time; and ſo conſequently hurtful, both to the Bodies and Souls of their Children.

It's true, there is great Care and Wiſdom to be uſed, in counſelling, correcting, training up, and chaſtiſing of Children: But ſome are ſo fooliſh, and ungoverned by the Truth in themſelves, that they can ſeldom correct, reprove, or chaſtiſe their Children, but when they are in a Paſſion. Theſe are another ſort of Fools the Rod is for the Back of: Every Thing moſtly begets

its Likeneſs; Wrath, Anger and Paſſion, beget their own Likeneſs in Children, and rather make them more ſtubborn: Therefore beware of immoderate Correction; but let it be moderate, when they need it. I never durſt correct my Children (though there was Occaſion) when I felt any Thing of this to appear; but was to wait in Patience, until I could in true Fear, and Love to their Souls, commune with them, and lay their Faults before them, in Love and Tenderneſs, to reach the good Part in them; withal, telling them, when they had done amiſs once, to have a care of the next Time; and if a third, then I ſhould pay them for all together; whereby I have drawn Tears from them, without whipping. And on this wiſe, beginning with them when young, kept them in awe; ſo that I had not Occaſion often to correct them: Yet did not heed their crying, when there was need for it.

So the Bleſſing of God, with my diligent Care, in Time, had a good Effect upon my Children, which is a Comfort to me in my old Age; and I have true Peace in it, when I remember the Care and Concern that attended me Day and Night at home, and when far abroad, in many long Journeys in Nations and Countries. The Searcher of Hearts knows, that the greateſt Care and Concern I had in this World, was, that I might wait to be guided in the Wiſdom of God, thereby to have a right Underſtanding, to give Counſel, Advice, and Correction to my Children, that they might be train'd up in the Fear of the Lord, and in the Way of Truth and Righteouſneſs; not cumbering my Mind, how to provide Portions and Eſtates in the World for them, or how they ſhould be preferr'd therein;

leaving that chiefly to the Lord, with a Belief in my Heart, that his providential Hand would order what he saw good and needful for them. Though its well known, among many faithful Witnesses in *Cumberland* (my native Country) that I neglected no Time, when I had it, to use honest and lawful Endeavours, in lawful Trading and Employment, for the maintaining of myself, Wife and Children, though with hard Labour of Body many Times, both Night and Day, when I was present, because often absent in the Lord's Work and Service.

And I had formerly a Concern upon my Mind to write to my dear Wife, how deeply I was concerned, when Hundreds of Miles distant, to give her Counsel and Encouragement for her own Preservation, in and under the many Affairs and various Exercises I often left her with, for many Years; with Counsel and Advice which I often gave her, concerning discharging her Duty, about the ordering and educating of our Children, which I believe she was careful and diligent in. And I was also concerned to write particularly to my Children, from the Eldest to the Youngest, as they grew up, and in measure came to a Sense of the Teachings of Grace in themselves; and to my Servants also in their Degree and place.

And in like manner it was always my Care and Concern, both when absent and present, that our Children, when in any measure fit for it, should go to Meetings, *Week-day* as well as *First-day*, in their Course and Order; and my Servants also, they giving way in Love and Condescension one to another, considering that what

was good and needful for my Soul, and the Souls of my dear Wife and Children, was good and needful for my Servants alſo; which begat Love and Obedience in them to me, and Love to Friends and Truth, and one to another; and ſo much the more ready, careful and willing were they to perform their Work and Service.

And as my Soul's Deſire was chiefly for their eternal Good, ſo the Lord was pleaſed accordingly to anſwer it, in raiſing up three of my Servants with a Teſtimony for his Name, Truth and Glory, (together with one of my Daughters of late Years) who are at this Time of the writing hereof (for ought I know) all living, to witneſs to the Truth of what I ſay.

And alſo I was concerned to teach and inſtruct my Children, when they were but yet in their young Years, (for then is the Time) to uſe and keep them to the plain Language of *Thee* and *Thou* to every ſingle Perſon, which is according to the Truth, and the Teſtimony of the holy Scripture; and to name the Days of the Week, and Months of the Year, in like manner; and not after, and according to the Names of the *Heathen Gods*: And not to uſe that corrupt, confuſed Language of *Ye* and *You* to any ſingle Perſon; which Things, too many profeſſing the Truth, make a light matter of. And ſuch Parents who, by their ill Example to their Children, and neglecting to diſcharge their Duty faithfully in ſuch Things, are the Cauſe that greater Evils are brought forth, both in Parents and Children; and Parents bring Guilt upon themſelves, to their Diſgrace and Hurt, and ſometimes to the Loſs of their Children. Hence it comes to paſs, that although ſuch

Parents

Parents may let their Children go to Meetings, yet not training them up in the Way of Truth, ſuch Children being left to what the Inclinations of their Nature will lead them to, for want of Care in Time, by Counſel and Advice, to direct them to the Teachings of Grace and Truth, when they grow up to that Degree, to chooſe their own Way (not being, I ſay, carefully educated, and brought up in the Way of Truth) it too often proves the Unhappineſs of ſuch Children, according to their carnal Inclinations, that they turn to, and often fall in with, the Ways of the People of the World, to the Shame and Diſgrace both of Parents and Children, and cauſing the pure Truth of God to ſuffer Reproach, and ſo they come to looſe the very Form of Truth, by joining with, and following the World's Ways, Words, ill Carriages, bad Cuſtoms, and antick fooliſh Faſhions, and too many Parents are too much the Cauſe thereof.

Oh! when will ſuch Parents come under a ſerious Conſideration in the Fear of God, to conſider and lay to Heart, whether or no you are clear in diſcharging of your Duty, firſt toward God, and then to your Children? Oh! be careful in Time (while you have it) to bring your Deeds to the pure Light, that thereby they may be tried of what ſort they are: For its certainly true, as Chriſt Jeſus ſaid, *They that do Truth, bring their Deeds to the Light, that they may be made manifeſt, that they are wrought in God*; and they who love the Light, love Chriſt, who ſaid, *I am the Light*, [obſerve] but they that hate the Light, hate Chriſt; and why? Becauſe their Deeds are Evil. And whatſoever the Light of Chriſt Jeſus within makes manifeſt, that

that you are judged for, and cannot have Peace with God in, let Judgment pass upon it, and love the Judgment, and patiently dwell under it, until thereby (or by the Effect thereof) you come to know Victory and Dominion over that which hath had too much Victory and Dominion over you, to your own Hurt and Hindrance, and hindered you from growing in the Truth, and to your Childrens Hurt also.

And you, Children, that continue in Stubbornness and Disobedience to your Parents, notwithstanding all their Care, Counsel, and honest Endeavours to train you up in the Way of Truth, instead of obeying your Parents (and the Light of Christ within) by giving Way to your ill Nature, and stiff Wills, both contrary to your Parents Counsel, and the Teachings of Grace and Light in yourselves, instead of choosing the Way of Truth to walk in, and doing that which is good both for Body and Soul, you too willingly and disobediently do that which is Evil, and so choose the broad Way which leads to Destruction; which hath been and is the Grief and Sorrow of Heart of such Parents, who have had disobedient and prodigal Children.

Oh! when will you come to yourselves? Observe (and consider) the *Prodigal*, when he had spent his Portion among Harlots, *he came to himself*, (saith the Scripture) *and said, I will go to my Father, and say, Father, I have sinned against Heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy Son, make me as one of thy hired Servants.* Here is an Example for you to take notice of, who are not content to abide with your Parents, but spend your Time

and Portion idly. Oh repent, and return in Time, leſt the Prodigal riſe up in Judgment againſt you; for he came to himſelf, and returned: And ſo muſt you, if ever you come to be bleſſed, and happy here, and to have Peace with the Lord in your dying Day; which is my Soul's Deſire in Love, and for the Good of you and yours, that you might have.

Now perhaps ſome may ſay, or think, that becauſe I ſay, Parents muſt govern, counſel and correct their Children timely, in their young Years, the Queſtion, I ſay, may ariſe, How young?

Anſw. So ſoon as you perceive they underſtand what Offence they are corrected for, and in meaſure know what they ſhould not, and what they ſhould ſay and do; and how they ſhould do Good, and not Evil: Which muſt be by ſome Diſcovery of the Light. For,

Surely they alſo are enlightned by the Light of Chriſt in them, which is not a natural Light, (as ſome Profeſſors call it) but the true Light, that by degrees will manifeſt whatſoever is reproved in a Child, as well as one of riper Years.

So that, ſo ſoon as Parents have a Sight or Senſe that their Children have received ſuch a Knowledge, (though but little or ſmall, as Children) then is the Time to have a watchful Eye over them, and accordingly teach and inſtruct them: And if you ſee they take little or no Notice of it, and that Stubbornneſs lodgeth in their Hearts; then you ought to make uſe of the Rod to drive it out, as the wiſe King

Solomon

Solomon ſaid. Which, if you do not, [obſerve] then the Rod of divine Correction is for your Backs; which will cauſe more Pain, Grief, and Trouble to you one Time or other, than the Crying of a Child, if ever you come to a Senſe of the Neglect of your Duty, and the Hurt and Loſs your Children ſuſtain by ſo doing. For he that loveth his Son, chaſteneth him betime, and doth not ſpare the Rod for his crying, as ſaith the Scripture. And they that do ſo, may have Comfort in their Children, (and their Children in ſuch Parents.) For, Oh what a comfortable Thing it is, to ſee the Appearance of Good brought forth in Children.

But ſome may ſay, *Some good Friends have had bad Children.* That is no Excuſe for you, that are not good yourſelves; who, becauſe of the Neglect of your Duty, have been, and are the Cauſe why your Children are ſo unlike the Truth as they are. And if thoſe Friends (whom, in Charity, we think to be good, and know no other but that they are) have neglected their Duty concerning their Children in Time, they are not to be excuſed, but to be blamed. But if they have uſed what Endeavours they could, and yet could not obtain their Deſire; though the Children of ſuch Parents run out, and become wild, and Prodigals; if the Parents can ſay in Truth, they were clear on their Part concerning their Children; that will not be laid to their Charge, but muſt be attributed to the ill Diſpoſition and Diſobedience of their Children.

And though it hath proved the Unhappineſs of ſome good Friends, whoſe Children have been brought up in good Order in the Way of Truth; and yet after they have been gone from under

their Government, have gone from Truth, by going into ſome evil Practices: Some getting Huſbands, and ſome Wives, out of the Way of Truth; Some going into Pride, thro' Idleneſs and Exceſs. And ſome forwardly and inconſiderately have made a great Shew of Trade for a Time, but being beyond their Stock and Underſtanding to manage, have run into abundance of Debt, until they have broke all at once, having not only ſpent their own, but much of other Mens; through a want of Regard to their Word and Promiſe, to the Diſhonour of Truth, their own Shame, and the Hearts Grief of their Parents: Yet this will not be laid to their Charge, though cenſur'd by Buſy-bodies, and prejudiced Minds, that watch for Occaſion, if they can get it, (as they think) thereby to cover their Faults and Miſdeeds.

And now, in order to draw to a Concluſion, obſerve, as in the *Title-page*, *Ye Fathers, provoke not your Children to wrath, but bring them up in the Nurture and Admonition of the Lord:* For they provoke their Children to Wrath, becauſe they correct them in their Paſſion; and when they ſhould in Wiſdom correct them for their Wildneſs and Wantonneſs, are too apt to indulge them, and not reſtrain them from it.

And I believe all the truly Faithful and Diligent, in the Diſcharge of their Duty toward their Children, dare not ſo do; for I durſt not.

But ſome are ſo fooliſh, (as I call them) that when their Children are rude and wanton, they will rather countenance them, to make them

active and lively (as ſome ſay) than correct them, ſaying, as before I have mentioned, *I cannot find in my Heart to whip my Children, to make them cry*; (obſerve, and take good Notice of what I ſay) If it ſo come to paſs, for want of thy timely correcting thy Children, that they grow wild, and wicked too; what wilt thou ſay, if thou be made to cry for thy Neglect of making Uſe of the Rod in Time?

Remember, and think upon theſe Things often, to prevent the ill Effects of Careleſneſs.

But ſome are ready to make an Apology, to excuſe themſelves from correcting their Children, ſaying, *There is great Differente in the Nature of Children.* That's true; ſo there is of Parents alſo. I grant, and know it by learned Experience, that this is a Myſtery; in order to educate Children aright, Men want to know how rightly to work upon their Diſpoſitions: Wherefore I adviſe, to be very ſerious and conſiderate in the Fear of God, to have a right Underſtanding of the Difference of the Tempers of Children (that are various) and accordingly to deal with them. Some will be more gained upon by Words fitly ſpoken, in the Fear and Wiſdom of God, than others will be by Correction, though they will not do without it.

And you who are Parents, do not pleaſe and ſatisfy yourſelves, in that you have great Portions and Poſſeſſions for them, and accordingly ſtrive for the like to prefer them in the World; for that will not make them good, bleſſed, and happy: But often rather ſay, (by way of Counſel and Advice to your Children) *Above all out-*

ward Preferment, let Truth and Virtue be the chief Object of your Eyes: And do not ſatisfy yourſelves with going to Meetings only; but when there, wait in the Fear of the Lord, in the Lowlineſs and Humility of your Hearts and Minds, to feel the Power of the Lord to ariſe, to work an effectual Work in you, to change your Nature, and ſubject your Wills, to work you into the Nature of Truth; that ſo you may love that above all, and then God will love and bleſs you.

See to it, Parents, that on this wiſe your Counſel be often given to your Children in Time, ſtill [chiefly] having a Regard for the Good of their Souls; and accordingly do I give Counſel and Advice, in the Love of God, both to you and your Children.

And now a few Words to you, that are appointed as Guardians and Truſtees of Children in Minority. You ought not only to take care to anſwer your Truſt, and diſcharge yourſelves truly and honeſtly, upon the Account of what their Parents have intruſted you with; but I am to put you in mind, that you ought to make it your Concern to ſupply their Parents Place, in uſing your Endeavours to preſerve their Children in the Way of Truth, according to their Capacities, and the Opportunity you may have ſo to do.

And that thoſe, unto whom ſuch Children are put as Apprentices, be not only careful to learn them their Trades, but do what in them lies, by way of Care, Counſel, and Advice, to preſerve them in the Way of Truth, if there be Love in them to it; and if but little, labour to beget more in them: This is the Way alſo to

obtain

obtain the moſt and beſt Work and Service from them. And you, as Apprentices, be obedient to your Maſters, and of a ſober Carriage and Behaviour to the reſt of your Maſter's Family, and they to you in like manner.

Now I heartily wiſh and pray, according to what is expreſſed in this Epiſtle, that every one concerned therein may be ſo wiſe for their own good, to receive what they know, by the Light of Chriſt Jeſus, chiefly to belong to them; and wherein they ſee thereby, they have either ſaid, or done, or left undone thoſe Things which were their Duty, that they take Counſel of Chriſt, by his pure *Light*, and teaching *Grace*, to do ſo no more.

By a Lover of Truth and Righteouſneſs.

Given forth at Street *in* Somerſetſhire, *the 13th of the Tenth Month*, 1709. John Banks.

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